Application No. 09/681,652 Amendment dated 18 October 2005 Reply to Office Action of 27 June 2005

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## **REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action mailed 27 June 2005, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-13, 15-21, 23-26, 28-30, 32-36 and 38 were previously pending in this application. The Examiner has rejected pending Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9-12, 20, 23, 24, 28, 29, 32, 34 and 38. With the above amendment, the Applicant has amended Claims 1, 9, 20, 24, 29, 34 and 36, and canceled Claims 3, 6, 7, 15, 33 and 35. Reconsideration of this claim set as amended is respectfully requested.

In particular, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3, 15-19, 33 and 35. The Examiner has stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base independent claim and any intervening claims. Based on these objected to claims, the Applicant has amended the case to put it in a form for immediate allowance.

In particular, the Applicant notes the following:

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of previously pending Claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated was drawn to allowable subject matter.

Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of previously pending Claim 15, which the Examiner has indicated was drawn to allowable subject matter.

Claim 20 has been amended to include all of the limitations found in previously pending Claim 33, which the Examiner has indicated was drawn to allowable subject matter, in a Beauregard form claim to distinguish this Claim from amended Claim 29.

Claim 24 has been amended to include all of the limitations found in previously pending Claim 35, which the Examiner has indicated was drawn to allowable subject matter, in a Beauregard form claim to distinguish this Claim from amended Claim 34.

Claim 29 has been amended to include the limitations of previously pending Claim 33, which the Examiner has indicated was drawn to allowable subject matter.

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Claim 34 has been amended to include the limitations of previously pending Claim 35, which the Examiner has indicated was drawn to allowable subject matter.

Claim 36 has been amended to reflect the updated dependence directly from Claim 34, rather than Claim 35, which is now canceled.

Pending independent Claims 1, 9, 20, 24, 29 and 34 are now drawn to subject matter that the Examiner has indicated was allowable over the cited prior art. The remaining pending claims depend from and include all of the limitations of one of these independent claims.

Because every pending claim is now drawn to subject matter that the Examiner has indicated was allowable over the cited prior art, the Applicants submit that the case is in a form for immediate allowance, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to the pending claims and pass Claims 1, 2, 4, 9-13, 16-21, 23-26, 28-30, 32, 34, 36 and 38 to allowance.

If any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's counsel at the number provided below so that a resolution can be most effectively reached.

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18 Oct 2003

Date